

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL CHUM SALMON HARVEST BEST IN 25 YEARS

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 5 hours from 4 p.m. until 9 p.m. Friday, August 23 in the Kotzebue District.

Catch during Thursday night's 5-hour opening was nearly 7,052 chum salmon by 35 permit holders. The catch was well above average for this time period. The commercial harvest to date is over 296,000 chum salmon by 66 permit holders and is the best harvest since 1988.

The 2013 chum salmon commercial harvest has now broken into the Top 10 best harvests in the 52-year history of the commercial salmon fishery. The fishermen's catch has surged past the department's forecast of a 225,000 to 250,000 chum salmon harvest this year. The present harvest ranks tenth best, but with another week of fishing may rise higher in the Top 10. Congratulations to Kotzebue Sound fishermen and to Great Pacific Seafoods for being able to handle this year's catch volume.

The Fish & Game crew will be finishing up operations at the Kobuk River test fish project this weekend. The 2013 chum salmon catch index was a record in the 21-year project history. Congratulations to the Kiana crew on a record breaking season.

If you have any questions concerning the fishery you can call the Kotzebue office at 442-3420, or the Commercial Fisheries office in Nome at 1-800-560-2271 or the buyer at 442-4192.